



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

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## **USDA Report Measures Certified Organic Production**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its 2015 Certified Organic Production Report today from the survey conducted earlier this year. The survey queried all known USDA-certified organic farms across Tennessee.

In 2015, Tennessee's USDA-certified organic farms sold a total of \$4.7 million in organically produced commodities. Vegetables led all sales totaling \$1.8 million, or 38 percent of all sales. Average sales were \$187,520 per farm.

There were 25 certified organic farms in 2015, comprising 2,321 acres of land. Sixty percent, or 1,383 acres, is cropland, and 938 is in pasture or rangeland.

In Tennessee, 72 percent of the farms sold at least some products directly to consumers, via farm stands, farmers' markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), and other arrangements. Forty-eight percent sold to retail or food service, and 44 percent of farms used wholesale markets. Twelve farms sold products through a CSA.

Of the 25 operators, 40 percent have been farming less than 10 years, and 40 percent have grown or raised certified organic products less than five years. Ten farms plan to increase production during the next five years and nine expect to maintain production.

The 2015 Certified Organic Production Report provides acreage, production and sales data for a variety of certified organic crops and inventory and sales data for certified organic livestock commodities. The 2015 Certified Organic Production Survey included all known farm operators who produced certified organic crops and/or livestock.